

Mohammed Choudhury

State Superintendent of Schools

BILL: House Bill 1190 DATE: March 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Calvert County - Civic Education **COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

- Standards and Curriculum (Social Studies Literacy Act)

POSITION: Information Only

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EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding **House Bill 1190 - Calvert County Civic Education Standards and Curriculum (Social Studies Literacy Act)**, which specifies that, beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, a unit on comparative political ideologies be included in the American government course. Additionally, HB1190 requires the State Board of Education to adopt age-appropriate civic education standards that must be incorporated at every grade level and curate oral history resources to be used in the Calvert County curriculum approved by the State Board.

The content identified in HB 1190 is included in the PreK–12 State Frameworks in social studies. Civics is one of the six standards for social studies and is woven into each grade level. The overview to the American Government State Framework introduces the content of the course that addresses rights, responsibilities, principles, and tools included in HB 1190:

The first unit of the State Framework in High School American Government contains objectives and assessment limits for the MCAP American government that address the content identified in lines 1-2 on Page 2 of HB1190:

Content Topic: Types of Government

Essential Question: Why do governments form?

Objectives: Evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of democratic and authoritarian political systems. Comparing authoritarian and democratic governments on distribution of power, efficiency of decision making, maintaining public order, protecting individual rights, and the ability to address a crisis.

¹ https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DCAA/Social-Studies/MSSS.aspx

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The Blueprint for Maryland's Future will provide the opportunity for MSDE and local school systems to re-examine local curricula and instructional materials. As local school systems continue to update their curriculum in accordance with the revised standards and frameworks and look to make future changes to curricular standards as a result of the Blueprint, additional legislatively prescribed curricular mandates at this time could create implementation-based inefficiencies due to the nearly complete revision of curriculum already charged within the Blueprint.

MSDE does not curate public history resources as required in HB 1190. Further, MSDE does not believe that the State should develop and approve resources that are singular and unique for one local school system. Any approach to the redevelopment and redesign of state curriculum standards should be done in a uniform manner for all local school systems.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 1190.** Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.